

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

August 5, 2003

7:30 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Mayor Baines stated I would like to ask Fire Commissioner Bill Varkas to come forward with Chief Joe Kane. Let’s give Commissioner Varkas a warm round of applause as he makes his way up here. There are a lot of mixed emotions that I have about making this presentation. One of the great things we have in government is the opportunity for citizens to serve our government in various capacities and this gentleman I have known for several decades now. Obviously our association goes back to my career in education and also the legend that he was at West High School when I became principal because Bill had been a science teacher, department head, assistant principal and then became the first principal of what is now Southside Middle School. A lot of people don’t remember way back that he used to have a band and the theme of the band was, and this is true now, swing your carcass to Billy Varkas. That is a true story. Also, this man has done so much for this community every year that he reaches out to students that need some assistance and to the schools with some foundation money, scholarship money that he has a hand in and so many young people in this community have been the beneficiaries of that as well but more important than that there is a legion of young people throughout the City that remember Bill Varkas because of the guidance and support that he provided them through his decades as an educator. I am here this evening to honor him for his service as a member of the Fire Commission. This is why these commissions are so important. Some people say well we don’t need commissions anymore and they are passe or they don’t have authority but I think if you ask Chief Kane in terms of the role that this gentleman has played in that department like being involved in the selection of new firefighters, which Joe has always involved him in has been very important to the functioning of that department and the strength of that department. I attend all of the ceremonies when they have the graduations of the firefighters when they complete their training and you can see the deep affection with which this man is held. It is with regret that he can no longer continue to serve on that Commission but we are going to find some other ways to keep him busy because he means an awful lot to this City. It is with that spirit that I would like to present this proclamation:

“Whereas after 12 years of service William Varkas is stepping down from the Manchester Fire Commission and during the latter part of his four year tenure he served as Chairman of the Commission and besides his several years of service on the Fire Commission he was also a teacher at Manchester High School West as I mentioned for many years and again the first principal of Southside; and

Whereas tonight’s ceremony commemorates his passion for his City as well as his dedication to his fellow citizens;

I, Robert A. Baines by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Manchester in the State of New Hampshire do hereby proclaim today William Varkas Day here in the City of Manchester.”

Mayor Baines stated congratulations, Bill. Finally, as I do on many occasions that I have the great privilege of doing this is to present the key to the City and when I present it I usually make this comment, that while it doesn’t open anything it really is symbolic of the doors of opportunity that have been opened by the recipients and I think in this case it means so much to the careers of so many people who have served in the firefighting community that the doors of opportunity of service to our community have been opened by this gentleman and also his career in education is truly legendary and has not been forgotten. The young people that this man has influenced through his entire career as an educator is certainly worthy of emulation by all who inspire to be an educator and I say that with personal knowledge about the impact that this man has had on the lives of so many people in this community. I present this key to the City to William Varkas in recognition of your years of service to the City of Manchester as Chair of the Manchester Fire Commission presented this day, August 5, 2003 with deep affection and admiration of this Mayor.

Chief Kane stated Bill I would just like to thank you for your friendship, your wisdom, which runs very deep and for all that you contribute to the City of Manchester and specifically to the firefighters - the jokes that you came to the Fireman’s Ball with, the jokes that you would come into the office with on a weekly basis and especially your friendship.

Mr. William Varkas stated I am so overwhelmed I can’t even think of a joke. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the Honorable Board of Aldermen because I owe you more thanks than you owe me. You gave me a purpose in life. When you retire you don’t know what you are going to do. You gave me something to do and I love Manchester, I love this City like I love my wife. So, I want to thank all of you for this honor and I want to thank you for giving me the privilege of serving this great City. I remember when the horses were pulling the garbage up the back street and now we are in a world where this City is so dynamic and it is growing by leaps and bounds and I am proud to be a citizen of Manchester. Thank you all for your work that you are doing for the City. Thank you.

Communication from John Thyng, Jr., Regional Director of New Hampshire for Health Care requesting that the Board consider adopting a health care resolution and requesting permission to address the Board on this matter.

Mr. John Thyng stated thank you for allowing me to speak. New Hampshire for Healthcare is a non-profit organization that is based in Concord. Basically this resolution is calling on elected officials from all levels of government to work with consumers, businesses and healthcare providers to insure that everyone has access to an affordable, basic health plan. This is a resolution that has been passed by 117 cities and towns in the State of New Hampshire. It was actually originally brought up at town meetings around the state and we had so many people from the cities that were clamoring to have it passed that is why we are now bringing it forward to Manchester and other cities around the state. Basically this resolution...first of all we are a non-partisan group and this resolution is not advocating for any particular plan. It is basically just calling attention to the fact that here in New Hampshire we have some serious problems. We have the second highest healthcare costs in the country. When we first started this, many of the towns that passed this resolution it stated the 12th highest. In the past year a new study has come out and we are now the second highest. The intent like I said is basically to send a message to Concord and to Washington that this can't continue. Small businesses and the self-employed are particularly hard hit by the cost of insurance and what we are seeing is more and more people are losing their insurance coverage. Small businesses are forced to drop coverage for themselves and their employees. Some of the groups that are supporting this resolution have signed on as coalition partners and they are...we have labor groups. We have the NH AFL-CIO and the State Employees Association. We have business groups. We have Chambers of Commerce. We are actually...we have begun discussions with the Manchester Chamber to come on board as well. We have healthcare provider groups. There are Medicare rights groups. There are just a whole host of people coming from all different perspectives. They are saying that now is the time to send a message that something needs to change. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Alderman Shea asked are you advocating any type of medical help or just medical help per say in the sense that you want some kind of medical help.

Mr. Thyng answered basically what the resolution does is state a couple of criteria for plans that we hope politicians will put forward, our elected representatives or those hoping to be elected to office, would put forward to make sure that everybody has access to an affordable plan. Basically on costs it says that everyone should share in the cost. That means employers and employees, as well as the State, Federal and local government. Basically the only thing...it compares, it says it should be comparable to those plans that are offered to Federal employees. There has been some question on why that is stated in the resolution. It is basically a series of plans that offer choice to the consumer and also both the employer and the employee have a stake in the plan.

Alderman Shea stated I am wondering exactly how you want this Board to interact with what your situation is because the full extent of what our involvement in obviously has to be determined in my opinion by the State and by Federal representation.

Mr. Thyng replied yes and what we are asking is that the Board on behalf of the City of Manchester call on elected officials to begin sitting down with consumers and coming up with some proposals to deal with the healthcare crisis. That is really the ask that we are looking for.

Alderman Sysyn asked would every employer have to offer and pay for health insurance, even the small business owner.

Mr. Thyng answered there is no requirement on employers. What we are looking for is to increase availability to affordable plans. Right now unfortunately many small businesses especially because of the way the insurance system is set-up have difficulty in getting affordable insurance for their employees. What we are looking for are some proposals. We are not calling for any mandate on employers.

Mayor Baines stated they are just asking for a dialogue around this issue. There is no particular position they are taking.

Mr. Thyng responded right. We want to get people talking.

Alderman Thibault stated that answers part of my question I guess. I was looking to see if you are looking for just a State mandate or a City mandate or are you looking for a Federal mandate or Federal involvement. What are you looking for?

Mayor Baines stated I will refer all of the Aldermen to Item 3 in your agenda packet. There is an actual resolution that has been adopted by 100+ local governments. This is the actual resolution that he is asking the Board to adopt this evening.

Mr. Thyng stated yes. It is just asking for officials to sit down and begin discussing this.

Alderman Guinta asked are you suggesting that officials are not sitting down and talking about affordable healthcare then.

Mr. Thyng answered the issue has definitely been...recently there has been much discussion on the issue. This project was started almost a year ago and it is an issue that is facing elected officials on a daily basis. I know during a presentation similar to this in Hooksett a couple of the town councilors stood up and said that the cost in their community for their employees had gone up almost 20% in the past two years and that is why they were supporting a greater effort and greater dialogue by all elected officials to come up with some solutions to bring down costs because it was something that they could not deal with unfortunately at the local level.

Alderman Guinta stated I notice Hooksett is not included on the list of 117 communities. Did they not adopt the resolution?

Mr. Thyng answered it tied 4-4. That town did not adopt it.

Alderman Guinta stated my comment would be that I think this is on the forefront of everyone's mind. I think City officials, town officials, state officials, federal officials...I have had conversations with people at all levels today on this issue. I think there is a lot of interest in this issue and I think everyone is well aware. I don't know that this is going to enhance the issue in any way or the importance of the issue. I think that everybody already recognizes the importance of affordable healthcare. I don't know if it is really the position...that the City of Manchester should take a certain position with some of these specified guidelines. I think that we talked about. We know that the State elected officials are talking about it and we know that the Federal officials are talking about it.

Alderman Lopez stated I sort of believe that healthcare is a major issue for everybody and I agree with Alderman Guinta that everybody talks about it. I believe primarily that this resolution, even supporting it, is for a bigger body of authority such as President of the United States doing something with healthcare as most of the candidates have indicated that they have a plan for healthcare. As you indicated the Federal package in the resolution as a past Federal employee I have an option of 10 insurance plans that I can buy into. I think that is what you are speaking of instead of...I mean there are things that we can't make business people do. It has to come from a high level office.

Mr. Thyng responded right. We are hoping...we have an opportunity here in the State of New Hampshire with all of the Presidential candidates that are coming into our state and what we hope to do through this resolution process is also send a message to those candidates that this is something of importance to the people of Manchester, New Hampshire and every community around the state. I neglected to mention before that this is something that has been signed by 18,000. In my letter I think I said 15,000 but it has now been signed by 18,000 residents of New Hampshire and over 1,000 here in the City of Manchester. We have just a few people here today to show their support but this is something that has had overwhelming support from your constituents.

Alderman Lopez stated just to follow-up I think the only thing I read into this is that we support your cause in trying to get healthcare for everybody.

Alderman Lopez moved to adopt the resolution. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Osborne asked can you tell me why on your list here Concord and Nashua haven't signed on.

Mr. Thyng answered certainly. Originally most of these communities that are on here had been passed through the town meeting process. The cities as I have said we just recently...people like those here today came to us and said why hasn't my city passed this resolution so we have begun contacting the cities. The two that are listed – Portsmouth and Laconia, actually went ahead and passed it on their own in the interim. We weren't even aware that it had been passed until we contacted them to get it placed on the agenda. The City of Nashua is going to actually be considering it in two weeks.

Alderman Garrity asked on your first bullet point on the resolution where it says it has to be comparable to what Federal employees receive, tell me what that is. What kind of plans do they have?

Mr. Thyng answered basically the reason that that...a common health plan...the Federal employees have a choice of a number of different packages where the employee and the employer both contribute to the cost of the health plan. It is not something...originally the thought was that if it was left out then people would think we were advocating for a strictly catastrophic plan that only came in with a \$10,000 deductible or something like that. It is a basic health plan; the Federal employees plan where individuals have a choice among a number of different plans.

Alderman Garrity replied that really doesn't help me. I am not a Federal employee so I don't know what my contributions would be or what the Federal government's contribution would be.

Mr. Thyng stated we are not calling for a specific...we are not saying create a Federal employee plan. We are looking for something where the employer and the employee would have a share in the cost of their coverage and employees would have a choice among a number of different plans so that they could chose something that was applicable. There would not be one insurance company.

Alderman Gatsas asked is it my understanding that what you are saying is that the plans would ask for a contribution by employees.

Mr. Thyng answered it is a basic tenant that everybody share in the cost of the coverage, yes.

Alderman Gatsas replied and you said that one of the supports of this plan is the SEA.

Mr. Thyng answered that is correct. What this is calling for is that everyone...if I can just address that. I think what you are saying is the SEA has a fully paid healthcare benefit for the employees of the State. This is not saying that anybody can't come up with a plan that was better than this. What we are saying is that everybody should have access to a basic

level of coverage. It would then be up to any employers and a labor union or some employers on their own to provide something better or offer something better. What we are saying is that everybody should have access to a basic level of coverage.

Alderman Gatsas asked then why doesn't it say in here everybody including employers. Why doesn't it say everyone including employers, employees and consumers? Why doesn't it mention the employee in there? It says, "everyone including employers, consumers and state, local and federal government makes a responsible and fair contribution to finance the healthcare system." It doesn't say employee.

Mr. Thyng answered I would assume that consumer is comparable to employee because what it also calls for is that this be accessible to the unemployed; that a plan would be available to the unemployed so I think the reason consumer was used is because it is a broader term.

Alderman Gatsas asked so if the SEA is in favor of this resolution then my assumption is they would be in favor of a contribution plan.

Mr. Thyng answered I can't speak for the SEA but what I would say is this is saying that everyone should have access to a basic plan. It certainly doesn't say that anyone can't have a more comprehensive plan than what is being offered here but that every resident of New Hampshire should have access and should be able to buy into a plan of affordable coverage, basic affordable coverage.

Alderman DeVries stated I guess I am a little bit surprised at the amount of questioning you are receiving because this seems to be a very general premise that you are asking us to endorse. There is nothing binding in this resolution and its main intent if I understand you is to get the attention of the Presidential candidates that we certainly enjoy the privilege of seeing frequently in this state and to send the message to Washington that on a larger scale we need to all work on a plan that everybody can buy into – employers, employees, those that have no insurance, welfare, whatever and to take advantage or to take care of the overwhelming health insurance issues that are compounding monthly for many of our citizens. What was the statistic? 55% uninsured?

Mr. Thyng answered there are over 100,000 people uninsured in the State of New Hampshire right now. 77% of those have a full-time worker at home.

Alderman DeVries stated it seems to be that this is much to do about nothing and I would like to call for a vote now. I think people can either support this as a very basic concept or they won't.

Mayor Baines responded I agree that we need to have a vote but I have two more people who asked to speak.

Alderman Wihby asked why would Hooksett have voted against it. Do you know or who else has voted against it that you can speak to?

Mr. Thyng answered I am sorry that I can't recall why Hooksett voted against it but there are a couple of communities, specifically during the town meeting process...generally it was something that was not...it may have been voted down once by one community but if it wasn't passed in a community it generally came up at the end of the night and if there was a contentious debate on a local fire truck or something a lot of times this got passed over.

Alderman Thibault stated I have one more question. You mentioned something about the unemployed and that bothers me because what cost would that be to the State for instance? How would this be accomplished through the State?

Mr. Thyng answered that is what we would like to find out as well. We are not putting forward a proposal on this. What we are asking for is proposals from...

Alderman Thibault interjected you are asking them to look at it and see how it can happen.

Mr. Thyng answered yes.

Mayor Baines requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, and Garrity voted nay. Alderman O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Smith, Thibault, Forest, Wihby voted yea. The motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Baines advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda, please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Minutes Accepted

- A. Minutes of meetings held on March 31, 2003; April 1, 2003(two meetings), April 7, 2003; April 15, 2003 (two meetings) and April 28, 2003.

Ratify and Confirm Poll Conducted

- B. Unanimously approving the acceptance of an Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$3,855 for the purchase of emergency management equipment for the Fire Department.

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways

- C. Verizon Pole Petitions #9AAKYC located on Straw Road and #9AAGY9 located on Brown Avenue.

PSNH Pole Petitions #11-982 located on East Industrial Drive, #11-983 located on Lingard Street, and #11-984 located on Loring Street.

**Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways -
Subject to the Availability of Funding**

- D.** Sidewalk Improvement Petitions 50/50 Program.

Informational – to be Received and Filed

- E.** Minutes from the July 16, 2003 Mayor’s Utility Coordinating Committee.
- F.** Minutes from the June 5, 2003 Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee meeting.
- G.** Communication from Joan Porter, Tax Collector, regarding statutory requirements for the sale of tax-deeded property.
- H.** Copy of a communication from Commissioner Murray, NH Department of Transportation, advising of contemplated awards.
- I.** Communication from the School Department regarding two parcels of land on the corner of North Bay and Bennington Street that the City of Manchester may be planning to sell.
(Note: Response from City Clerk advising that these two parcels have already been put aside as parkland attached.)

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- J.** Resolutions:

“Amending the 2004 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for 2004 CIP 214704 Lead Safe For Kids Sake.”

“Amending the FY2004 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) for FY2004 CIP 411604 Homeland Securities Program.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Year 2003.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

BILLS ON SECOND READING

- K.** Recommending that Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Children and Youth Health Director) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.026 (Administrative Services Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.061 (Temporary Assignments) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

ought to pass.

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN O’NEIL, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SMITH, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

Nominations to be presented by Mayor Baines.

Heritage Commission

Kathleen Mirabile to succeed Walter Milne, term to expire January 1, 2006.

Ken Scarpetti to succeed Linda Sirak, term to expire January 1, 2006.

Greg Faltin to fill the unexpired alternate term of Elizabeth Larocca, term to expire January 1, 2005.

Airport Authority

Anthony Pecce to succeed Brian Duplessis, term to expire March 1, 2006.

Police Commission

Nury Marquez to replace Fern Gelinas, term to expire September 15, 2006.

Mayor Baines stated as per the rules of the Board, these nominations will layover until the next meeting.

A report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented recommending that the Board authorize acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$2,400,000 for the FY2004 CIP 612104 McQuade Building Renovation Project and for such purpose a resolution and budget authorization has been submitted.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to accept the report and refer the resolution and budget authorization to the Committee on Finance.

A report of the Committee on Community Improvement was presented recommending approval of a sewer abatement in the amount of \$482.05 for 172 West Shore Avenue, which was the amount recommended by EPD.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault it was voted to accept the report.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Resolutions:

“Amending the 2004 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for 2004 CIP 214704 Lead Safe For Kids Sake.”

“Amending the FY2004 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) for FY2004 CIP 411604 Homeland Securities Program.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Year 2003.”

“Amending the FY2000, 2003 and 2004 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000) for the 2004 CIP 612104 McQuade Building Renovation Project.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

Alderman Smith moved to accept the report. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas being duly recorded in opposition to the McQuade Building resolution.

A report of the Committee on Human Resources was presented advising that it has reviewed the need for additional funds for the Planning and Building Department’s restructuring and is recommending that \$38,831 be transferred from the Planning Department operating budget to the Building Department operating budget. The Committee notes that it is anticipating \$22,850 in revenues previously projected to be received by the Planning Department will now be received by the Building Department and notes that the Planning Director shall provide a report to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration regarding his department’s fiscal status on or about January 1, 2004.

Alderman Lopez stated I believe the number of \$38,831 is incorrect. It should be \$61,681.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied that included the \$22,850.

Alderman Lopez responded no. The revenue is a separate item. Just for clarification the \$22,850 in revenue...there was a question as to whether that had to be transferred to the Building Department since the revenue has already been received.

Mr. Clougherty answered no.

Alderman Lopez stated the total figure should be \$61,681 being transferred from Planning.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept the report as amended. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Thibault asked do we have any background on this.

Alderman Lopez stated it is on the Human Resource Committee agenda.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

A report of the Committee on Human Resources was presented recommending that revised class specifications for Evidence Specialist and Victim Witness Advocate; a position of Airport Environmental Compliance Specialist be established at a Grade 20; a position of Airport Construction Specialist be established at a Grade 19 and a revised class specification for Recreation Maintenance Worker I be approved and for such purpose ordinance amendments have been submitted.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept, receive and adopt the report. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked are these new positions or are they existing positions that haven't been filled.

Ms. Lamberton answered the Airport ones are new job class specifications so they would be two new positions at the Airport. All of the other ones are just updating the class specifications to keep them up-to-date.

Alderman Gatsas asked what are the increases in the grades.

Ms. Lamberton answered there aren't any.

Alderman Gatsas asked so it is not an additional cost.

Ms. Lamberton answered no. It is just making them contemporary to keep up...otherwise five years from now we will be doing a whole bunch of them and spending a lot of money.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I believe the Chairman of the Committee had spoke to the Chairman of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading and they wanted to make a motion to suspend the rules for ordaining.

Alderman Lopez stated I have talked to Alderman Wihby the Chairman of the Committee on Bills on Second Reading and if he agrees we would like to suspend the rules and ordain the ordinances this evening.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to suspend the rules and place the ordinances on their third and final reading by titles only without referral to the Committees on Bills on Second Reading and Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration.

On motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to read by title only, and it was so done.

“Amending Section 33.026 (Evidence Specialist & Victim Witness Advocate) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Sections 33.024, 33.025 and 33.026 (Airport Environmental Compliance Specialist & Airport Construction Specialist) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.026 (Recreation Maintenance Worker I) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

These Ordinances having had their final reading by title only, Alderman Lopez moved on passing same to be Ordained. Alderman O’Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked the change for the Recreation Maintenance Worker had to do with a driver’s license. Was that the only change?

Alderman Lopez answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked are we having a hard time recruiting people with the driver’s license. Is that the issue?

Alderman Lopez answered yes. They have publicized the position but the old class specification indicated that they had to have a commercial driver’s license. This gives the opportunity for the department head to train them and within six months they will be able to get it and if they don’t they don’t.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to Ordain. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Majority and Minority reports of the Committee on Lands and Buildings.

- A. Majority report recommending that the City send out a Request for proposals as outlined for the City-owned land on Old Wellington Road reflecting a minimum bid of \$750,000 to be set.
- B. Minority report recommending that the City send out a Request for Proposals for City-owned land on Old Wellington Road reflecting a minimum bid of \$900,000 to be set.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept the majority report. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea stated as far as I am concerned I think that the property there is priceless and to offer it for \$750,000 I would be opposed to that.

Mayor Baines asked, Mr. MacKenzie would you like to address that issue.

Mr. MacKenzie stated we did review the parcel. We looked at perhaps how many units could be built on the parcel. This is the site that the City has owned for a number of years and it has come up at the Board level as one option to meet the budget deficit since this property has not been used in the past. Again, the price portion started at about \$600,000. The Committee reviewed it and felt that should be at least \$750,000. That is an amount that is probably going to be an amount that we can reach. There is a minority report and I am not sure if we would reach that number or not.

Mayor Baines asked would you be more comfortable with this number.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes.

Alderman Shea stated in my opinion if you set a particular price when you sell a house for say \$100,000 usually it is bid down to \$90,000 or \$95,000. It would be the same at this stage. If we ask for \$900,000 it can always go down. If you ask for \$750,000 and you go down you are losing whatever the difference might be. In my judgement I would not support \$750,000. I would be opposed to that.

Alderman Thibault stated as Chairman of Lands and Buildings I believe that at the time we had the assessed valuation to this property it was somewhere in the \$720,000 range. Tom, could you tell me exactly what that was? Maybe I am mistaken. My further question would be if it goes out to bid let's go out to bid with it and get the best price that we can get for it. I am all for that.

Assessor Nichols responded the assessment was around \$231,000 right now. That is the assessed value.

Alderman Thibault stated I believe that some of the people on my committee and especially some of the other people that came into the committee and talked that day were of the opinion that it was worth between \$6.5 or \$7 million. I am all for getting the top dollar that we can get for it and that is what I say. If we go out to bid we should be able to get the top dollar of what that land is worth.

Mayor Baines asked millions. Is that what you are saying?

Alderman Thibault replied I am sorry. I meant \$650,000 or \$700,000 or maybe up to \$900,000. The point is I think if we go out to bid then it is legitimate and everybody has a chance to bid as to whatever the price of that property is worth. I would be willing to do that, your Honor, as Chairman of that Committee to see that it goes out to bid. I have no problem with that.

Alderman Smith stated I did a little bit of homework on this and went to the Planning and Community Development Office and out of nine or so acres about only 3.8 or 3.9 is buildable. It is peak wetland soil. It is a slope of 20 to 25 feet. It is not suitable for building and I think that only about four acres can be used for affordable housing or whatever you want to do with it. That is why I think the \$750,000 number is appropriate.

Alderman Guinta stated my only comment would be let's not bid against ourselves and start at \$750,000. Let's start at \$900,000.

Alderman Thibault stated you could always put \$1.2 million on it to if you don't want to sell it.

Alderman Guinta replied well let's do \$1.2 million then.

Alderman Thibault responded if you don't want to sell it that is what you could do

Alderman Lopez stated I think Alderman Smith summed it up but I think it is also the financial aspects of putting in 60 units because there are some parameters from Lands & Buildings also and I think, Mr. MacKenzie, if you could elaborate a little bit more on the financials and the reason he came up with \$600,000 and then went to \$750,000 because I think that is very important as to the developer that goes there to try to build the housing units that we need in Manchester.

Mr. MacKenzie stated generally I did first speak with Assessor Tellier to get an idea of why perhaps the assessed valuation was so low and it hasn't been considered for use and I think that is why it hasn't been reviewed in detail as City property. After reviewing with several realtors and potential developers, generally raw land for multi-family housing runs roughly \$10,000/unit. It can go higher if it is a good site – a little bit higher. In just our quick review of the site we thought we could put between 60 and 70 units on the property so we did take the lower number as a base bid. That would be again a base. They could not bid lower than \$600,000 in our first recommendation and if there is more than one bidder you will likely...if you have several bidders you will likely get your best price. The Committee did want to boost that to \$750,000 and again if you look at the numbers that is possible. I think my only

concern going above is the higher you go the higher the risk that you will not get enough bidders to get your best price.

Alderman Lopez stated the only other comment I would make is Mr. MacKenzie would you agree that the site is an extensive work site that needs to be done up there.

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes. There is quite a bit of work that would have to be done. There are wetlands you would have to work around and again as Alderman Smith indicated there are some steep slopes that you would have to work around as well.

Alderman Wihby asked if we set a minimum bid do we have to sell it at that or could we change our mind once they bid.

Mr. MacKenzie answered we did discuss and I did speak with the City Solicitor the City could reserve the right to reject any and all bids. Those will be coming in. We can review those and we can review each bid with the Board but again the Solicitor indicated that the City could refuse any of those bids.

Alderman Wihby asked so is that part of this report.

Mayor Baines asked would that just be in the legal documents that you draft, Tom, for that.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold answered what we have done in the past with tax deed properties when we go out to RFP or in past experience going out to auction, I usually record the highest bid whether it meets minimum or not and on certain properties it will come back to this Board saying this is the highest bid we got do you want to accept it and if the Board indicates that they do I will then go back to the highest bidder.

Mayor Baines stated I think Alderman Wihby's point is well taken. Let's say you come back and you have a bunch of bids. Doesn't there have to be a Board action to actually accept the bid and do we reserve the right at that point in time to say hey we had such a good response that we decide to reject the bids?

Deputy Solicitor Arnold replied typically if the minimum bid is met we do not come back to the Board. We accept the high bid and sell it pursuant to the Board action.

Alderman Wihby asked can we do it so that if we made it \$750,000 we don't have to take it. My concern is you have nothing to lose if you go to the \$900,000. If you don't get it you go back out to bid and lower the price but if we stayed with the \$750,000 can you say that we don't want to take the bid? Even if somebody reached the minimum bid could we change our mind? Do we have something in that clause that would enable us to change our mind and go back out later?

Deputy Solicitor Arnold answered yes. As a matter of fact when the Committee met we discussed that and I drafted language for Mr. MacKenzie for that purpose to put in the RFP that basically the City reserve the right to reject any and all bids with or without cause specifically specifying that we would not, if we rejected all bids, be responsible or have any liability for the cost of the bidder including the cost of preparation of the proposal.

Alderman Wihby asked can you show me where that is on the paperwork we have.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that was drafted when the Committee was meeting. We did not include it. The Committee did not take it as an action but we do have it available and probably with review by the Solicitor's Office could include it.

Alderman Wihby asked so on Item 12A if you look at what is given to us it says \$600,000. That has gone up now to \$750,000 with the majority report and then there is another line somewhere that is not on this sheet that says we don't have to accept it but we would have one more chance to look at it again?

Mr. MacKenzie answered yes.

Alderman Wihby asked and that is part of the majority report.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we could make that as part of the report. We can take a motion to amend the report to include that language.

Alderman Wihby responded that is what I am getting at. Does the report have it in it or not?

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied no it does not.

Deputy Solicitor Arnold stated perhaps I should be a little more precise as to what is going on. The Committee action was to send this out for Request for Proposals with a minimum price of \$750,000. With proposals, unlike an auction, many times there will be Committee or Board action to consider the various proposals that have been presented as they may have differing terms or offers in terms of what the developer is willing to provide or put on the property.

Mayor Baines stated the Board wants to reserve the option to review the bids and make a final determination. What do we need for language so that occurs? We will continue the questioning if you could work on the wording.

Alderman Lopez stated if we are accepting that tonight remember the Finance Officer has indicated to us that we have timeframes here also. I would ask that when the bids come in if we have to call a special meeting of the Board that we do so.

Mayor Baines responded we will.

Alderman Thibault asked what are we doing here. We have David Beauchesne the Urban Planner and GSS specialist telling us exactly what this land is all about and what this land can do and now we are saying well we don't care what he says we are going to ask for \$1.2 million or \$1.5 million. His memo says "As you have requested" through Alderman Smith who got this information it says, "I have prepared a site and shown the map of a City owned parcel of land TM-645, Lot 10 off of Wellington Road. It contains parcel boundary lines for Lot 10 as well as for those several parcels which abut it, two foot topographical intervals and soil demarcation lines and associated edification data" which shows on this map that only about four acres of this land can be developed and they are looking to get \$1.2 million or \$1.3 million or \$800,000 for this land? What is the matter with these people? It doesn't make sense.

Alderman Gatsas stated I guess if we are rushing to make sure that we sell surplus property to meet the deadlines of the budget then we would reduce prices but for somebody to sit there and say that it is 4.5 acres of 4 acres when somebody can go out and maybe come back with 5 and put 120 units then I would say the City has shortchanged itself. There is no reason why we can't put a price of \$900,000 on the property put it out to bid and let somebody get back with bids. That is a little bit more than \$12,000 a unit. Now I don't know...maybe Mr. MacKenzie can help me. How many 4-acre sites are there in the City of Manchester that are zoned multi-family?

Mr. MacKenzie answered there are probably about a half dozen left in the City.

Alderman Gatsas responded so supply and demand says that maybe we might be able to get a premium. I don't know why we are looking at \$750,000 when people are telling us that it is \$10,000/unit minimum and that is with the assumption that it is 3.5 acres buildable and if somebody goes out and surveys it and comes back with 5 acres buildable and they put 120 units that is \$1.2 million. I guess is the City going to pick up the difference? Probably not. I am certainly confused as to why we wouldn't put the \$900,000 and if we don't get a bid at \$900,000 we can always reduce it to \$750,000.

Alderman Osborne stated I have talked many times about Wellington Road and I guess I am getting tired but it seems to me that all we are doing here is taking...even if we got \$750,000 for this property all we are doing is just swapping it on the West Side for three house lots. It is now a good swap no matter how you look at it and I think Alderman Gatsas is right. I think there is more that can be built there than the 3 acres. I lived on it. I was born on it. I

know it quite well. No builder is going to tell you that it is worth more or no developer is going to tell you that it is worth more than what it is. That is just common sense. Again, I know you don't like hearing about the West Side but it is a poor investment – a very poor investment over there. I think it is an injustice to put the seniors over there. That is the way I feel about it. That is me. That is my prerogative. I think it is a lot of money. We are going to end up spending a lot of money over there and I will never vote for anything over there; nothing. I would like to have a roll call.

Alderman Shea stated necessity is the mother of invention. We all know that. Kevin, how necessary is the sale of this land in order for the City to reduce the tax rate that we have set? Is it necessary? Is it not necessary?

Mr. Clougherty replied as part of the budget that was adopted this was included as part of those discussions and if you want these revenues to be included as part of the tax rate calculation we have to have this closed by the time we set the tax rate in November.

Alderman Shea asked how much would that reduce the tax rate if we did not sell...how much would the tax rate be affected if we do not sell this land by October 1 because some of us favor a higher price and some of us don't. Could you tell us that?

Mayor Baines answered it is around nine or ten cents I think.

Mr. Clougherty stated each time we take in \$1 million it is about 1% or about nineteen or twenty cents.

Alderman Shea asked what is the tax rate now without this and what would it be with it so that we can be specific about what we are talking about here.

Mayor Baines answered all we have to do is calculate...\$1 million is approximately what twenty cents.

Alderman Wihby stated but in the budget there was an extra \$1 million that came in anyway from the State. That will offset some of the \$650,000 if we don't sell it.

Mayor Baines replied that is true but we could get it lower.

Alderman Wihby stated well we could get it lower but regarding Alderman Shea's question as to what we were at we are much lower.

Alderman Shea stated that is what I am asking because basically the concern here is that we have to sell this within a certain period of time in order to impact our tax base but our tax base has been fundamentally influenced by the fact that we are getting more money back

from the State that we didn't anticipate getting so, therefore, I think if we don't make a decision necessarily this evening about this or we can't agree on a necessary price it is not going to adversely affect our tax rate as we understood it to be when we set it. That is what I am trying to get across.

Alderman Smith stated maybe I am not following the thought here but usually when you send out proposals you have bids. We are asking for a minimum bid of \$750,000. Now if a developer is out there and as Alderman Gatsas said if it is going to be much more beneficial to him I am sure they are going to bid more than \$750,000 because I am sure if it is attractive for everybody we should be able to get three or four bidders. In regards to the tax rate we did receive money from the State that is going to reduce it. This will even reduce the tax rate more.

Alderman Lopez stated I want to thank Alderman Shea for bringing that very valid point up. I think the most important thing that we should look at here is housing. We need housing in this City and this is a great opportunity for us to get some housing.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated as I understand it some of the Aldermen wanted to include some additional language on the report so the motion would be to amend the report. The language that was drafted is to include language within the RFP that the City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals with or without cause. Should the City reject any or all proposals it shall have no liability to any bidder for any cost including the cost of preparation of any proposals and further that staff shall make recommendations to the Committee on Lands and Buildings who shall report to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for further consideration at a later date.

Alderman Gatsas stated there is a date in here that says sufficient information must be shown or demonstrated that a closing can occur on a property prior to June 30, 2004.

Mayor Baines answered it has to be before that. There has to be a signed agreement before that.

Alderman Gatsas responded it says a signed agreement by October 31 but then it says the closing before June 30th.

Mr. MacKenzie stated we did make sure that there would have to be a purchase and sale agreement by the time that tax rate is set so the Finance Director has some assurances that money will come through and that the money actually comes in sometime during this fiscal year so it can be applied.

Mayor Baines asked why don't we introduce the amendment to reserve the right of the Board to accept or reject the proposals.

Alderman O'Neil moved to amend the report to include language within the RFP that the City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals with or without cause and should the City reject any or all proposals it shall have no liability to any bidder for any cost including the cost of preparation of any proposals and further that staff shall make recommendations to the Committee on Lands and Buildings who shall report to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for further consideration at a later date. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the main motion on the floor would be to accept the report as amended. The reporting being that the City send out the RFP's as outlined at a price of \$750,000 including language for right of refusal and with reports being made to Lands and Buildings and the Board.

Alderman Lopez moved to accept the report. Alderman DeVries duly seconded the motion. Alderman Osborne requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Osborne, Shea, Forest, Wihby, Gatsas and Guinta voted nay. Aldermen O'Neil, Lopez, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Sysyn voted yea. The motion carried.

Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Children and Youth Health Director) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.026 (Administrative Services Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.061 (Temporary Assignments) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“An Ordinance restructuring the Planning and Building Departments.”

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard it was voted to dispense with the readings by title only and it was so done.

These Ordinances having had their second presentation, Alderman Sysyn moved on passing same to be Enrolled. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration to meet.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

A report of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration was presented advising that Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Children and Youth Health Director) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.026 (Administrative Services Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.061 (Temporary Assignments) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“An Ordinance restructuring the Planning and Building Departments.”

were properly enrolled.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report.

Request of Aldermen Forest, Lopez and Smith on behalf of the Manchester Senior Citizens Activity Center Fund that the fees be waived for a benefit tournament to be held at Derryfield Country Club on September 22, 2003 to raise funds for the new senior center.

Alderman Thibault moved to waive the fees for a benefit tournament to be held at Derryfield Country Club on September 22, 2003 to raise funds for the new senior center. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Osborne being duly recorded in opposition.

Communication from City Clerk Leo Bernier requesting permission to apply for a \$6,682 grant to restore and preserve seven volumes of records of the Manchester Common Council, 1856-1915.

Alderman Garrity moved to approve the request. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Guinta asked is there additional City matching funding that is going to be required.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered no. This is a straightforward grant. There are no matching funds required.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Communication from Information Systems, Fire and Police Departments requesting authorization to dispose of telephone, computer and other equipment through auction.

Alderman DeVries moved to approve the request. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez asked why wouldn't we do this for all departments that have excess equipment instead of just two departments. Has any coordination been made with all departments? I am sure there is excess equipment in other departments.

Chief Kane responded originally it was just the Fire Department that was going to do this and we outreached to other departments. That is why the Police Department is on board and Information Systems is also on board in regards to doing that. We have talked to other people in the City. As far as I am concerned, anyone can be involved.

Mayor Baines stated they did reach out to see if other departments wanted to participate.

Alderman Lopez asked and they didn't have any equipment that they wanted to get rid of.

Chief Kane answered not through this process.

Alderman Gatsas asked why wouldn't we take some of this computer equipment if it is still usable, if we are looking to sell it at auction, and give it to the School Department. Do they have no use for it?

Ms. Diane Prew answered the School Department has already looked at the equipment that is available. That which they can use they have taken. This is equipment that they have no use for.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Communication submitted by 497 Silver Street Associates LP requesting the Board's re-affirmation of the acceptance of Lincoln East Back Street as proposed in a subdivision plan dated March 18, 1998; such passageway having been constructed and meeting the conditions of the actions of the Board taken at a Road Hearing held on October 12, 1989.

Alderman Shea moved to reaffirm and confirm the action taken accepting the proposed Lincoln East Back Street as further outlined in the subdivision plan dated March 18, 1998 and described in the petition contained herein submitted July 28, 2003. Alderman Forest duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Wihby asked is the Highway Department in agreement with this.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered yes.

Ordinances:

“Amending Section 33.024, 33.025 & 33.026 (Children and Youth Health Director) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.026 (Administrative Services Manager) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“Amending Section 33.061 (Temporary Assignments) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”

“An Ordinance restructuring the Planning and Building Departments.”

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to dispense with the reading by titles only.

These Ordinances having had their third and final presentation, Alderman Forest moved no passing same to be Ordained. Alderman O’Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Resolutions:

“Amending the 2004 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for 2004 CIP 214704 Lead Safe For Kids Sake.”

“Amending the FY2004 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) for FY2004 CIP 411604 Homeland Securities Program.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Year 2003.

“Amending the FY2000, 2003 and 2004 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000) for the 2004 CIP 612104 McQuade Building Renovation Project.”

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault it was voted to dispense with the reading by titles only.

Alderman Shea moved that the Resolutions pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Gatsas being duly recorded in opposition to the McQuade Building resolution.

TABLED ITEMS

24. Communication from Deputy Clerk Piecuch submitting two referendum questions to be ordered to the September 16, 2003 Non-Partisan Municipal Primary Election ballot on behalf of the Retirement Board of Trustees for the Contributory Retirement System.

Mayor Baines stated this was tabled at that last meeting and there was some discussion about it going to the November ballot which I guess is the decision of this Board.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated at this point what we would like to do is remove it from the table. There were two issues with this item.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated your Honor it is my understanding that the Board had discussed moving it to the November ballot, which is also what the Clerk's Office is recommending. We also requested that Mr. Ntapalis and Maurice from the Retirement System appear before the Board to answer some questions that had come up relative to financials. We also have a hand out that is being distributed.

Alderman Gatsas asked if this passes what would be the additional cost to the City.

Mr. Daneault responded if you look at the hand out before you the additional cost to the City would be \$90,000 per year in additional contributions to the retirement system. If I may describe what these figures show, in the center of the page you see item 1 estimated increase in 2003 accrued liability. That is the accrued liability that was arrived at for all of the service for all of the City employees currently. That is to cover the cost of this benefit for all of the current City employees. That is amortized over a 30-year period so you see the \$15,000 dollar amount on Line 3. The \$200,000 is amortized over 30 years with interest. It adds a \$15,000 cost per year. Line item 2 is the estimated increase in 2003 employer normal costs. That is the additional normal cost for service accruals going forward from the time of its passage for all employees. If you add Line item 2 and 3, \$75,000 and \$15,000 it comes up to \$90,000 per year in additional costs.

Alderman Gatsas asked how many other employees do we have that if they filed for this same reduction...what would it cost the City. Not all employees are in this plan currently. This is based on a plan that says that the amount of deduction goes from 4% or 5% to 2% a year.

Mr. Daneault answered no. This is for improved death benefits for the retirement plan for City employees. That is what these costs are.

Alderman Gatsas asked this is nothing else about a reduction.

Mr. Daneault answered you are probably referring to the reduction in early retirement penalty that was approved last year. That is already on the books.

Alderman Thibault stated I wonder if you could elaborate a little bit on what this is all about. I believe, if I am not mistaken, that this is about a widow's pension if a City employee in fact dies or has an accident within the City. I wonder if you could explain what has happened to some of the widows of some of the City workers and I know of some but I would like you to talk about it so everyone understands what we are trying to do here. What we are trying to do at this point is protect the widow whose husband works for the City and gets killed for whatever reason and the widow is out there alone with nothing. This is what has happened to a few of my constituents that I know of and I am sure there are many others throughout the City. I just happen to know about the ones in my area. I wonder if you could elaborate a little more.

Mr. Daneault stated let me just explain what the death provisions are that exist for the retirement system currently and then Harry can take over and explain what the benefits from the City are. The retirement system currently provides a death benefit if a member dies while in service. It is sort of a weak death benefit and a member has to be eligible for service retirement in order for the widow to get a benefit and when the benefit is paid out we do a normal retirement calculation and it gets reduced for 100% joint survivorship benefit and then gets reduced for early retirement if the member wasn't of normal retirement age. If a member passed away and was fairly young in age the benefit gets whittled away quite badly. The new benefits would provide death benefits in two categories. One, accidental death benefits and the other ordinary death benefits. Accidental death benefits, of course, are if a member died while in service and the death was the result of an accident or injury while in service or on the job. That death benefits provides 50% of average final earnings to the widow or to the children under 18 years of age. The benefit is payable until the widow either dies or remarries. Under ordinary death benefits if the member had five years of credible service and was eligible for retirement benefits there is a 50% benefit, 50% of the service retirement allowance that is payable to the widow again until death or remarriage. You can see that the benefits are a lot better than they have been in the past.

Alderman Thibault asked would it cost the City \$90,000 more to do this.

Mr. Daneault answered per year yes.

Alderman Thibault stated now this has to be something that the Board has to agree on. I just wanted to make sure that they understood it before they voted on it. Knowing that I have two constituents who have been hampered with this situation and have gotten absolutely nothing from the City once their husband died...one of them was I think 17 or 18 years working for the City when he died and his widow got absolutely nothing. This woman has had to go out and get a full-time job in order to be able to survive. I think it is something that the Board has to take...I don't want to pressure the Board to do anything but I just want them to know where it is at and what we are trying to do here.

Mayor Baines stated the motion I think we should have is that the two referendum questions be ordered to the November non-partisan municipal general election ballot.

Alderman O'Neil moved to order the two referendum questions to the November non-partisan municipal general election ballot. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman DeVries stated at last month's meeting we were informed that we could still get these items on the September ballot and I am wondering what has changed. It is just that November is going to be rather crowded with the Charter question.

Mr. Ntapalis stated the thought we had when we went up to testify in Concord before the ED&A Committee as well as the Senate is the fact that last year when we presented benefit enhancements the November ballot was fairly crowded and at that point in time we noticed the people who did end up voting during that election many times just bypassed the referendum questions because there were a lot of things on there. When we did go up to Concord we had asked that the Committee actually consider either September or November and that is the way HB 320 and 321 is currently drafted. It gives that option in order to take the burden off of November and give your constituency the opportunity to vote on it in September. Obviously, it is up to the Board of Aldermen.

Alderman O'Neil stated in September we have many wards where there are no races. I mean the Mayor's race is in every ward but there are many wards where there are no races. I think it belongs on the November ballot myself.

Mayor Baines stated I would recommend that also. That is when most of the people go to vote and questions that impact all of the citizens of the City, I believe, belong on the November ballot.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Shea stated as we all have been made aware the Babe Ruth team has advanced to the World Series out in North Dakota and on behalf of the members of the Babe Ruth League I would like to ask this Board to approve a \$2,000 civic contribution to help these young men go out there to represent our City.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to approve a \$2,000 civic contribution to the Manchester Babe Ruth League.

Alderman Garrity stated we got the overtime reports for the past two fiscal years from the Human Resources Director on July 19 and I was a bit alarmed. \$4.2 million almost in overtime last year and 151,000 hours. I can certainly understand that when it snows we have to get the streets plowed and when a police officer has to be in court on his day off. I can certainly understand some of the service departments but I am seeing administrative staff for overtime and things like that. Over \$4 million a year for overtime is a little ridiculous and I would like to move this report to the Human Resources Committee.

Alderman Lopez stated I think that item has been assigned to the Accounts Committee.

Alderman Guinta stated I would like to give notice of reconsideration on Item 12, Old Wellington Road.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated I do have one item of new business. There is a communication that was distributed from the Clerk's Office requesting that the Board set the polling hours for the municipal primary election on Tuesday, September 16 to begin at 6 AM and end at 7 PM.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to set the polling hours for the September 16 municipal primary election from 6 AM until 7 PM.

Alderman Lopez stated can I ask the Chairman when we should expect his appointments to the Committees we discussed.

Alderman O'Neil answered as soon as possible.

Alderman Lopez stated maybe while Tom Nichols is here he can tell us how Steve Tellier is doing.

Mayor Baines stated obviously best wishes to Steve and his entire family. I believe there is some good news here.

Mr. Nichols stated Steve got home today. He is doing well. He has been keeping in contact with us.

Alderman Thibault stated I talked to him yesterday myself. He seemed in great spirits.

Alderman Gatsas stated back to where Alderman Lopez is, I have some concerns that this Committee on the Baseball Stadium isn't being formed to look at some of the things that are happening. I am hearing an awful lot of rumors and I would like some clarification on the rumors that the turf that is going in is less than what we expected and that the seating that is

going in is steel seating and not seats. We need to put these rumors to rest because it is City money that is going there. The \$4 million is not falling from heaven. It is bonded money and it is City money and we need to be paying attention to what is happening there. Everybody was all over the Civic Center Committee and I think the Baseball Committee needs to start meeting. I think we need to move forward with that and it needs to be moved forward quickly.

Alderman O'Neil stated it is my opinion, your Honor, that the fact the Committee hasn't been formed yet hasn't hindered anything that has gone on there. A lot of these things that are out there are just rumors. I heard one the other day that the Central practice field is going to get paved over for a parking lot. There are a lot of rumors out there. People are guessing at what is going on and the Committee will be formed very soon and we will address the issues as they come up. The intent of the Committee is not just for rumors going on in the City. If somebody has something specific, put it in writing to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Alderman Gatsas stated then I think Mr. Baseball as he was called when I saw the presentation on Gill Stadium, Alderman Smith, had some concerns, the same concerns that I have. He must have heard the same rumor because there was discussion about it today.

Mayor Baines replied I agree. Alderman O'Neil will be getting the Committee together I think the sooner the better so we can get all of these issues before the Committee.

Alderman Smith stated I have been called a lot of names but I did receive a report on the artificial turf and we are going to follow-up on it. There are a lot of rumors going out on this and I think the main reason is and I think we can blame ourselves, we didn't have the staff to oversee them a week ago when they started this project. Now under Frank Thomas we have somebody who is going to inspect this on a daily basis until we get somebody from a consulting firm to look out for our interest. I assure you that whenever the Committee is appointed you will be informed and we will try to get the best possible product for our youngsters.

Mayor Baines stated we are also having weekly coordination meeting on the project as well.

Alderman Gatsas asked are those public meetings.

Mayor Baines answered they are staff meetings that are going on to make sure that all of the staff is on board and communicating.

Alderman Guinta stated I would like to be invited to those meetings.

Mayor Baines responded we can let people know when the meetings occur.

Communication from William J. Jabjiniak requesting to meet with the Board in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(d) to discuss the potential sale of City property.

Alderman Thibault moved to meet in non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (d).

Alderman Garrity duly seconded the motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that a roll call vote was needed. Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, and Forest voted yea. The motion carried.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk